




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: July 21, 2020

SUBJECT: **Clarified Expectations for Connecticut School District Reopening Plans**

The [*Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*](#) document, and the directive from Governor Lamont and Commissioner Cardona, require that all school districts develop plans for **three scenarios** for fall of 2020:

1. A plan to provide for in-school instruction *for all students on a full-time basis*, unless a family voluntarily opts into temporary remote learning;
2. A plan to provide both in-person and remote learning support options (hybrid) accessing instruction and curriculum online resulting in limited student population on school premises at any given time; *and*
3. A plan for total remote learning to provide a strategy for the potential of future cancellation of school or a certain class requiring all students to access instruction and curriculum online for a period of time.

At this time, Connecticut state law requires that access to public school class be offered to students for 180 days and 900 hours, unless the district avails itself of the recent Connecticut State Board of Education waiver for 3 additional planning and training days, to hold school for a total of 177 days. Excluding public school students for certain days of the week (for example, having certain grades only attend school on Mondays and Tuesdays, with remote learning the other days) is not appropriate under the first model.

Any plan submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education on July 24, 2020 that does not include a full reopening option as one of the three models, where all public school students have the opportunity to access school in-person 5 days a week, will not be in compliance with current state law regarding the number of school days, or the expectations of State leadership. Current statutes do not anticipate that remote learning programming “counts” toward the required number of days in school year. The CSDE expects to issue further guidance on this issue should it become necessary for districts to move to remote learning models in some capacity during the 2020-21 school year, should public health data require it.

As the Governor has indicated, careful analysis of public health data will drive the final determination regarding which models school will implement when reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. We anticipate additional communications on this topic from the Office of the Governor and myself related to the most appropriate model to adopt during August. To further support school district teams developing plans for the upcoming school year, and to provide technical and operational support for those districts wrestling with unique local issues, we have established the **CSDE Reopen Schools Support Team**, which is described in detail in the accompanying attachment.

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Desi Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Education